

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claim 1 has been cancelled, while claims 2 and 7 have been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 1. In addition, claim 8 has been made dependent on claim 2.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. JP-03245682 to Yoshikuni. The Examiner has further rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikuni. The Examiner has allowed claims 9 and 11, and has found claims 2-6 allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above changes, Applicant believes that claims 2-6 and 8 should now be allowed.

The Yoshikuni reference appears to disclose a contour correction circuit which makes a pre-shoot and overshoot ratio of an output luminance signal constant by providing a detection means for detecting the ratio of pre-shoot and overshoot in an input luminance signal and controlling the ratio of the pre-shoot and overshoot in a contour correction signal.

With regard to claim 7, the Examiner now states:
"Neither Engel nor Yoshikuni discloses the averaging over a plurality of fields. However, based upon the type of signal received interlaced (odd/even fields) or progressive (frames would

determine whether averaging over a plurality of frames or fields. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify both Engel and Yoshikuni which disclose improving the transients in a signal and contour correction by detecting/controlling the preshoots and aftershoots by comparing the preshoots and aftershoots over a plurality of fields or frames, based upon the type of input signal, in order to reduce any variations between image sequences."

First, Applicant would like to note that the Rejection in the current Office Action does not cite Engel.

Second, the type of signal is irrelevant to the subject invention. In an interlaced signal, each field contains either the odd or even lines in a frame, i.e., two subsequent fields are combined to form a frame, while in a progressive signal, each field contains all of the lines in a frame.

The Yoshikuni contour correction circuit extracts the horizontal synchronization pulse from each line in a video signal, extracts the lower side of the pre-shoot and overshoot, detects a ratio of the pre-shoot and overshoot, and then uses this ratio to correct the input luminance signal such that the output ratio is one-to-one. It therefore appears that the ratio is determined line by line, and the luminance signal is corrected on a line by line basis.

In the subject invention, as claimed, the output of the comparison (e.g., the ratio in Yoshikuni) is averaged over several field periods prior to being used for correcting the input video signal.

Applicant submits that this is neither shown nor suggested by Yoshikuni, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicant believes that this application, containing claims 2-9 and 11, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by 
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On April 18, 2005
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